

*Reason for Allowance*

1. Regarding claims 12-13, 15-21, 33-34, 22-30, 35-36, 31, 37, 39-45, 57-58, 46-54, 59-60, and 55, the prior art fails to teach or suggest a method for controlling sending cells from a first device having at least one communications link with a second device, the second device being capable of maintaining, for each of the at least one communications links, a queue for each of a plurality of X destinations, the method comprising step maintaining a cell count associated with each of the X destination queues of the second device; wherein the act of maintaining a cell count associated with each of the X destination queues of the second device comprises, for each of the at least one communications links updating the cell count using the accepting credit update information and the accepted cell-in-transit information; determining whether or not to forward the cell from the first device to the second device using the cell count associated with the one of the X destination queues of the second device corresponding to the determined destination of the cell, in combination with other limitations, as specified in the independent claims 12, and 37.

2. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Duc Ho whose telephone number is (571) 272-3147. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 7:30 am to 6:00 pm.

If attempt to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jay Patel, can be reached on (571) 272-2988.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2600.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

4. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Patent Examiner

/Duc C Ho/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2465

04-11-2010